

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above referenced application in view of the following remarks is requested. Claims 1, 13, 25, 27, and 33 have been amended. Claims 4 and 16 have been cancelled and previously presented claims 6, 18, and 28 have been reinstated as claims 36, 37, and 38, respectively. Claims 2, 6, 14, 18, 28, 31, and 34 were previously cancelled. Existing claims 1, 3, 5, 7-13, 15, 17, 19-27, 29-30, 32-33, 35 and reinstated claims 36, 37, 38 remain active in the application.

ARGUMENT**10 *Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 21-22, 25-26 and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Junqua et al. (US 6,324,512) (hereinafter Junqua) in view of Cohen et al. (EP 1 014 277) (hereinafter Cohen).

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the limitations of claim 4. Claim 4 15 has been cancelled. Nosohara (EP 0 838 765) (hereinafter Nosohara) is the primary reference relied on by the Examiner in rejecting the original claim 4. A thorough review of Nosohara reveals that the cited reference teaches or suggests nothing about the invention as currently claimed.

Nosohara requires that the destination language be specifically selected before 20 the translation means can translate a key word from the searcher's native language (col. 4, lines 32-57 of Nosohara, reads on "the language used to define the search conditions is selected by the searcher and then the databases to be searched (destination language) are designated ..." emphasis added). In other words, the selection of the destination language for the key word translation in Nosohara is

performed manually by the user. Nosohara teaches or suggests nothing about the limitations in original claim 4, which recites automatic destination language selection and translation. In fact, in the Office Action dated December 2, 2002, as well as in the teleconference between the Examiner and the applicant, the Examiner admitted that the cited references failed to show the "automatic destination language selection" feature and suggested that the applicant incorporate this feature in appropriate claims. In the Preliminary Amendment dated January 23, 2003, the applicant amended original claims 4, 7, 16, 19, and 27 to recite this feature. However, the Examiner failed to address the amended claims reciting the "automatic destination language selection" feature in the Office Action dated May 21, 2003. This novel feature has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Because no cited references (Junqua, Cohen, or Nosohara) teach or suggest this novel feature, amended claim 1 is thus allowable.

Accordingly, independent claim 13 is amended to incorporate limitations in claim 16, and independent claim 25 is amended to incorporate the "automatic destination language selection" feature. Claim 16 has been cancelled. A similar amendment argument can be made for amended claims 13 and 25 as the argument made above for amended claim 1, since these claims now include similar limitations. Therefore, claims 13 and 25 are also allowable.

Because independent claims 1, 13, and 25 are allowable, all claims dependent therefrom are also allowable (e.g., existing claims 3, 5, 7-12, 17, 19-24, 26-27, 29-30, 32, and represented claims 6, 18, and 28).

Additionally, the applicant desires to respond in detail to various dependent claims.

Claims 4, 7, 8, 16, 19, 20, 27, 33, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Junqua in view of Cohen, and further in view of Nosohara. Based on the Examiner's suggestion, the applicant amended original claims 4 and 7, and existing claims 16, 19, and 27 in the Preliminary Amendment dated January 23, 2003 so that these claims recite the novel "automatic destination language selection" feature which is not taught or suggested by any cited references. However, the Examiner failed to address such amendment in the Office Action dated May 23, 2003. The limitations in original claim 4 have been incorporated into independent claim 1 and the limitations in original claim 7 have been incorporated into independent claim 13. The applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections regarding existing claims 16, 19, and 27 that recite the novel "automatic destination language selection" feature, which is not taught or suggested by any cited references, and allow these claims.

Furthermore, in the teleconference between the Examiner and the applicant, the Examiner also admitted that "automatic search across multiple languages" is a novel feature recited in the specification, which is not taught or suggested by any cited references. The applicant amended claims 7, 19, and 27 to recite this novel feature in the Preliminary Amendment dated January 23, 2003. However, the Examiner failed to address existing claims 7, 19, and 27 that recite this novel feature in the Office Action dated May 21, 2003. The applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of existing claims 7, 19, and 27 that recite the "automatic search across multiple languages" feature, which is not taught or suggested by any cited references, and allow these claims.

As for independent claim 33, the novel "automatic destination language selection" feature was present in the Preliminary Amendment dated January 23, 2003. However, the Examiner failed to address this novel feature that is not taught or suggested by any cited references. Although claim 33 is allowable as it stands, claim 5 33 is further amended to incorporate another novel feature, i.e., automatic search across multiple languages, which is not taught or suggested by any cited references. The amended claim 33 is allowable. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 33. Because claim 35 depends from claim 33, claim 35 is also allowable.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that that all active claims 1, 3, 5, 7-13, 15, 17, 19-27, 29-30, 32-33, and 35-38 are presently in condition for allowance, and their passage to issuance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions, the 15 Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-8074. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix A**Claims as Amended**

1 1. A method of interfacing to a system comprising:
2 receiving speech input data from a user;
3 identifying a language spoken by the user from the speech input data;
4 converting the speech input data into a first text in the identified language by
5 recognizing the user's speech in the speech input data based at least in part on the
6 language identifier;
7 parsing the first text to extract keywords;
8 automatically translating the keywords into a plurality of automatically selected
9 languages other than the identified language;
10 using the translated keywords as a command to an application;
11 receiving results to the command;
12 converting the results into a second text in a natural language format according
13 to the language spoken by the user; and
14 rendering the second text for perception by the user.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein rendering comprises converting the second
2 text into speech and rendering the speech to the user.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising using the keywords as a search
2 query to at least one search engine, wherein the results comprise search results from
3 the at least one search engine operating on the search query.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically translating the
2 keywords into a plurality of automatically selected languages other than the identified
3 language and using the translated keywords as a search query to at least one search
4 engine in multiple languages, wherein the results comprise search results in multiple
5 languages from the at least one search engine operating on the search query.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising automatically translating search
2 results in languages other than the language spoken by the user into the language
3 spoken by the user.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the application comprises a web browser.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the web browser interfaces with at least one
2 search engine and the command comprises a search query.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the web browser interfaces with a shopping
2 web site and the command comprises at least one of a purchase order and a request
3 for product information.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the speech comprises conversational
2 speech.

1 13. An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine
2 readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the
3 instructions provide for interfacing to a system by receiving speech input data from a
4 user, identifying a language spoken by the user from the speech input data, converting
5 the speech input data into a first text in the identified language by recognizing the user's
6 speech in the speech input data based at least in part on the language identifier,
7 parsing the first text to extract keywords, automatically translating the keywords into a
8 plurality of automatically selected languages other than the identified language, using
9 the translated keywords as a command to an application, receiving results to the
10 command, converting the results into a second text in a natural language format
11 according to the language spoken by the user, and rendering the second text for
12 perception by the user.

1 15. The article of claim 13, wherein instructions for rendering comprise
2 instructions for converting the second text into speech and rendering the speech to the
3 user.

1 17. The article of claim 13, further comprising instructions for using the keywords
2 as a search query to at least one search engine, wherein the results comprise search
3 results from the at least one search engine operating on the search query.

1 19. The article of claim 13, further comprising instructions for automatically
2 translating the keywords into a plurality of automatically selected languages other than

3 the identified language and using the translated keywords as a search query to at least
4 one search engine in multiple languages, wherein the results comprise search results in
5 multiple languages from the at least one search engine operating on the search query.

1 20. The article of claim 19, further comprising instructions for automatically
2 translating search results in languages other than the language spoken by the user into
3 the language spoken by the user.

1 21. The article of claim 13, wherein the application comprises a web browser.

1 22. The article of claim 21, wherein the web browser interfaces with at least one
2 search engine and the command comprises a search query.

1 23. The article of claim 21, wherein the web browser interfaces with a shopping
2 web site and the command comprises at least one of a purchase order and a request
3 for product information.

1 24. The article of claim 13, wherein the speech comprises conversational
2 speech.

1 25. A language independent speech based user interface system comprising:
2 a language identifier to receive speech input data from a user and to identify the
3 language spoken by the user;

4 at least one speech recognizer to receive the speech input data and the
5 language identifier and to convert the speech input data into a first text based at least in
6 part on the language identifier;

7 at least one natural language processing module to parse the first text to extract
8 keywords;

9 at least one language translator to automatically translate the keywords into a
10 plurality of automatically selected languages other than the identified language for use
11 as a command to an application, and to translated results to the command in languages
12 other than a language spoken by the user to the language spoken by the user; and

13 at least one natural language generator to convert the results into a second text
14 in a natural language format according to the language spoken by the user.

1 26. The system of claim 25, further comprising at least one text to speech
2 module to render the second text audibly to the user.

1 27. The system of claim 25, further comprising at least one language translator
2 to automatically translate the keywords into a plurality of automatically selected
3 languages for use as a search query, and to automatically translate the search results in
4 languages other than the language spoken by the user into the language spoken by the
5 user prior to summarizing the translated results and converting the summarized results
6 into the second text in a natural language format.

1 29. The system of claim 25, wherein the system is coupled to a web browser.

1 30. The system of claim 29, wherein the web browser interfaces with at least
2 one search engine, the keyword comprises a search query, and the second text
3 comprises search results from the at least one search engine.

1 32. The system of claim 29, wherein the web browser interfaces with a shopping
2 web site and the command comprises at least one of a purchase order and a request
3 for product information.

1 33. A language independent speech based search system comprising:
2 a language identifier to receive speech input data from a user and to identify the
3 language spoken by the user;
4 at least one speech recognizer to receive the speech input data and the
5 language identifier and to convert the speech input data into a first text based at least in
6 part on the language identifier;
7 at least one natural language processing module to parse the first text to extract
8 keywords;
9 at least one search engine to use the keywords as a search term and to return
10 search results;
11 at least one language translator to automatically translate the keyword into a
12 plurality of automatically selected languages prior to input to the at least one search
13 engine to search across multiple languages, and to automatically translate search
14 results in languages other than the language spoken by the user into the language
15 spoken by the user;

16 at least one automatic summarization module to automatically summarize the
17 translated search results;

18 at least one natural language generator to convert the summarized results into a
19 second text in a natural language format according to the language spoken by the user.

1 35. The system of claim 33, further comprising at least one text to speech
2 module to render the second text audibly to the user.

1 36. The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically summarizing the
2 results prior to converting the results to the second text.

1 37. The article of claim 13, further comprising instructions for automatically
2 summarizing the results prior to converting the results to the second text.

1 38. The system of claim 25, further comprising at least one automatic
2 summarization module to automatically summarize the second text prior to converting
3 the second text into the natural language format.

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